

ay 20. The system of claim 12, wherein the input devices to which said sports server is operatively connectable comprise personal digital assistants, mobile phones, pagers, two-way radios, smart-phones, and sport specific input devices.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 29, 2000 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 20 have been amended. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 12 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended, and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

In the Office Action mailed March 29, 2000, the specification stands objected to under 37 CFR 1.71 as allegedly failing to adequately teach how to make and/or use the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that the specification fails to provide specific software or hardware that allows the system of the present invention to achieve communications between the server and the various types of input devices listed in the specification. The Examiner asked about any "universal" hardware or software the could be used.

It is respectfully submitted that (1) the specification does disclose an example of a "universal" device independent communication protocol which is used to communicate with various different types of mobile input devices and (2) it was known at the time of the invention to those skilled in the art to use protocols or formats to communicate with various different types of mobile devices.

Many different types of mobile and stationary stations are capable of communicating with networks and servers connected to the networks because the networks, servers, and mobile stations all support a common protocol, i.e., format, for transmitting data. Fig. 3 of the present invention shows that the sport server of the present invention is connected to a network 204 and that the mobile input station 200 is connected to the sport server via the network. Accordingly, the mobile station must first connect to the network and then connect to the sport server. It is known in the art that many different types of mobile stations such as PDAs, mobile phones, and WAP devices are connectable to networks such as the internet by using protocols supported by both the mobile device and the network. Once a mobile station is connected to a network, the mobile station may then be connected to any server connected to that network which supports the protocol used by the mobile station.

Transport Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) is one type of protocol that is used on most world wide web (www) networks. Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) is another type of protocol which aims to provide Internet content and advanced telephony services to digital mobile phones, pagers, and other wireless terminals. Attachment 'A' to this Amendment is a description of WAP. The dates shown for the various sections show that WAP was known to those skilled in the art at the time of the application.

The specification of the present application discloses at page 9, lines 5-10, that WAP may be used to communicate with WAP capable terminals. That is, the specification discloses that the sports server may support WAP for transmitting data between the sports server and a mobile device.

Furthermore, the specification states on page 12, lines 11-12, that the sport server 10 includes software supporting a www-server, WAP server, and Sport Server. Accordingly, the

sport server 10 supports the TCP/IP protocol for the www-server, the WAP protocol for the WAP server, and a protocol specific to the sport server for communicating with devices specifically designed for the Sports Server system according to the present invention (see page 9, lines 9-10).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that at the time of the invention it is known to those skilled in the art that communication between one device to another requires that each device support a common protocol or format. Furthermore, TCP/IP and WAP are two examples of many protocols which were known to those skilled in the art at the time of the invention. Given the teachings of the present application, those skilled in the art could develop a sports server that supports the TCP/IP and/or WAP protocols for communication with any mobile station that supports those protocols. Furthermore, those skilled in the art could also develop a specific protocol for communication between a mobile station designed specifically for the present invention and the sports server of the present invention which supports that specific protocol.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that those skilled in the art would have known how to communicate with various types of mobile stations at the time of the invention by using a common, known communication protocol. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification now be withdrawn.

II. Rejection to Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

Claims 4, 6-8, and 10-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification. More specifically, the Examiner states that it is not clear how the step of “determining the display and communication parameters

for the mobile terminal” is achieved. Regarding claim 13, the Examiner states that the specification does not disclose the components of the filter adapting device or how it works.

The specification discloses that the system according to the present invention includes a connection database including the type of device, the horizontal and vertical resolution of the device, the colors of the display, the operating system of the device, the connection speed, the processor power, the amount of memory, and a key for accessing the sport database (see page 11, lines 12-16). Further, the system according to the invention includes a connection database including input device information and a user database including information for all users (see page 11, lines 19-21). As disclosed on page 13 and shown in Fig. 3, some of the output devices are continuously connected to the sport server via the filter device and others are intermittently connected devices such as the mobile stations. The mobile devices are connected via a network. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the parameters of these mobile devices are known from the connection database. Similarly, the parameters of the continuously connected output devices are also known.

Moreover, the specification for Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE) GSM 02.57 v8.0.0 (1999-07) (see attachment ‘B’ hereto) discloses that user interface configuration management was known by those skilled in the art at the time of the present invention. As stated on page 10 in the second paragraph of section 6.2.1, “Management of the user interface configuration will permit a user to move from MExE mobile station to MExE mobile station and exploit the technical capabilities of each class of MExE mobile station, with the use of varying services downloaded from the network as required.” Furthermore, user interface configuration management may be stored in the network, i.e., in the claimed “filter adapting device”.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that it was known to those skilled in the art at the time of the invention to determine the appropriate level of output, i.e., the user interface configuration, to the respective output devices.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 4, 6-8, and 10-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, now be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 9-11 and 13-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-11 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over GB Patent No. 2,249,202 (**Osamu**) or U.S. Patent No. 5,810,680 (**Lobb**). Claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, and 20 have been amended.

Before discussing the prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of the prior art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention is directed to a system and a method for managing sports data related to statistics for one or more sports. As shown in Fig. 3 of the present application, a sports server 10 is connected to a network 204 such as the internet or some other public mobile communications network. In the particular example in Fig. 3, the sport server 10 is connected to two databases 12a, 12b for storing sports data for different sports and/or different regions. A mobile station 200 is selectively connectable to the server 10 via the network 204. Through this connection, a user may input the results of a game or part of a game to the sports server 10 which transmits the results to the appropriate database 12a, 12b for recordation. Furthermore, a user may query the databases for historic data and for generating reports such as for determining the strengths and weaknesses of a golf player or for determining the record of a baseball team.

During establishment of the connection between the sport server 10 and the mobile station 200, the sport server 10 determines the type of mobile station being used and the parameters required for communication with that mobile station. This determination may be accomplished by comparing the phone number or device ID of the mobile station, for which the connection is being established, to a list of devices in a connection database, which includes the necessary information about the input device.

Amended independent claim 1 is a method claim and recites the steps of :

- (a) establishing a communication connection between the mobile terminal and the sport server via a public mobile communications network so that the mobile terminal is in communication with the sport server;
- (b) setting the mobile terminal in a sport data input mode and selecting a selected sport to which the sport data pertains;
- (c) inputting, by a user, the sport data into the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server;
- (d) transmitting the inputted sport data from the mobile terminal to the sport server via the communication connection established in said step (a); and
- (e) recording the sport data in the sport database.

Osamu discloses a data recorder for a golfer including a portable input unit carried by a golfer as the golfer plays a course. The golfer inputs data during play on the portable apparatus. In contrast to the present invention, the data input by the golfer is saved in the portable apparatus until the golfer connects the portable apparatus to a stationary apparatus at the clubhouse, or some other location, for post-treating and editing of the data which was entered during play to convert the data to further information. Osamu teaches that the portable input unit is a specific device designed only for use as an input device for golf scores and that is required to physically connect with a stationary device to download the saved data. Osamu fails to teach that the input device is connectable to a public mobile communication network. Accordingly, Osamu

fails to teach or suggest the limitations of steps (a) and (d) of amended independent method claim 1 which require that the portable apparatus is connectable to a public mobile communications network for direct transmission of sport data to a server and database via the network.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over Osamu. Dependent claims 1-10, being dependent on independent claim 1, are patentable for the same reasons that independent claim 1 is patentable over Osamu.

Lobb also fails to teach the limitations of independent method claim 1. Lobb teaches a computer aided game apparatus for tracking location on a golf course, recommending club selection, recording golfer statistics, receiving notification via a pager and playing infomercials during the course of a golf game. The apparatus of Lobb includes a mobile unit as shown in Fig. 2 of Lobb. As a golf game is being played, a golfer inputs game data to the mobile unit. A map of the golf course is stored in a memory 102 of the mobile unit. A global positioning system (GPS) arranged in the mobile unit determines where a golfer is on the course and the mobile unit displaying on a display the current location of the golfer. Messages may be sent to the golfer while the golfer is on the course via a paging system 109. During play the golfer inputs data via a keyboard (or a touch screen) which is saved in either the memory 102 or a separate memory connected to the mobile unit via a PCMCIA port 112 or other port (see col. 7, lines 52-67 of Lobb). The mobile unit 140 may be docked onto a host computer system 150 via the PCMCIA port 112, a serial port 114, a parallel port 116, or an optical connection such as an infrared port 118. When the mobile unit 140 is docked to the host computer 150, the data saved during the game may be transmitted into the host computer 150. The host computer 150 may then be connected to a further computer which may have a regional database.

Accordingly, Lobb also teaches a mobile unit designed specifically for a game recording system in which data is input and saved onto the mobile unit during play. Lobb fails to teach or suggest the limitations of steps (a) and (d) of amended independent claim 1 because Lobb teaches that the mobile unit 140 must be “docked”, i.e., connected to a remote database for entering data in the remote database. Accordingly, respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is patentable over Lobb.

Dependent claims 2-11, being dependent on independent claim 1, are patentable for the same reasons that independent claim 1 is patentable over Lobb.

IV. Rejection of Claims 12, and 4, 6 to 8 and 21 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, and 4, 6 to 8 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Osamu or Lobb in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,369 (**Rudow**).

Claims 4 and 6 to 8 are claims that are dependent upon independent claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons that independent claim 1 is allowable, as discussed above.

Independent system claim 12 includes the following limitations:

a sport server connected to a public mobile communications network and comprising a processor operatively connected to said sport database for managing the sports data, said sports server operatively arranged for receiving the sports data from an input device connected to said sport server via the public mobile communications network and for managing queries to said sport database

As discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, Osamu fails to disclose the limitation of claim 12 which requires “a sport server connected to a public mobile communications network” and “operatively arranged for receiving the sports data from an

input device connected to said sport server via the network". In contrast, Osamu teaches a mobile device in which data is stored during the play of a golf game. Osamu also teaches a host device to which the mobile device may be connected at a later time to transfer the data to the host device. Osamu fails to teach that the host computer is a server connected to a public mobile communications network or that the sport server receives data from an input device via the public mobile communications network.

Furthermore, Lobb also fails to teach or suggest the limitation of claim 12 requiring a sport server connected to a public mobile communications network for receiving sports data from an input device via the public mobile communications network. Lobb also teaches that data is first stored in the mobile unit and that the mobile unit must be brought to the host computer to transfer the data to the database.

Rudow fails to teach what Osamu and Lobb lack. Rudow discloses a golf course information system in which mobile units are connected to a base station via an RF link. However, Rudow fails to teach or suggest that the base station is operatively arranged for receiving the sports data from an input device connected to said base station via a public mobile communications network as required by claim 12. Rather, the Rudow system saves the data on each individual mobile unit and the data is downloaded to the base station when the players are finished with their round (see col. 7, lines 55-59). Accordingly, Rudow does not contemplate that the data can be input from a mobile station and transferred to the sports server, i.e., base station, via a public mobile communications network. Even though Rudow discloses a RF network for message communications between the base station and the mobile units, Rudow fails to teach or suggest that the data from the game can be input to the base station via this RF connection.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 is allowable over Osamu or Lobb in view of Rudow.

The amendments to dependent claims 13, 14, 15, 18, and 20 correct the dependencies of these claims since they are system claims which, as filed, were inadvertently made to depend upon a method claim. Dependent claims 13 to 21 are allowable for the reasons that independent claim 12 is allowable.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. (Amended) A method of transmitting sport data between a mobile terminal and a sport database connected to a sport server, the sport server including a processor for managing sport data to be saved in the sport database and for managing queries of the database, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) establishing a communication connection between the mobile terminal and the sport server via a public mobile communications network so that the mobile terminal is in communication with the sport server;
- (b) setting the mobile terminal in a sport data input mode and selecting a selected sport to which the sport data pertains;
- (c) inputting, by a user, the sport data into the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server;
- (d) transmitting the inputted sport data from the mobile terminal to the sport server via the communication connection established in said step (a); and
- (e) recording the sport data in the sport database.

12. (Amended) A system for managing sports data related to statistics for one or more sports, comprising:

- a sport database for storing sports data;
- a sport server connected to a public mobile communications network and comprising a processor operatively connected to said sport database for managing the sports data, said sports server operatively arranged for receiving the sports data [received] from an input device connected to said sport server via the public mobile communications network [to be stored in the sport database] and for managing queries to said sport database;

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a user database connected to said sport server for storing user data for each user having authority for inputting the sports data;

a connection database connected to said sport server for storing connection data for a plurality of different types of terminals capable of being used as input devices for inputting the sports data;

means for determining a type of input device in communication with said sport server and for determining display and communication parameters of the input device; and

means for transmitting prompts to the input device and receiving replies to said prompts using the determined display and communication parameters for determining the sports data received from the input device.

13. (Amended) The system of claim [11] 12, further comprising a filter adapting device including means for determining display and communication parameters of an output device and means for transmitting the sports data to the output device using the determined display and communications parameters.

14. (Amended) The system of claim [11] 12, wherein said sport database comprises a first sport database for storing sport data related to a first sport and a second sport database for storing sport data related to a second sport.

15. (Amended) The system of claim [11] 12, said sport database comprising a plurality of fields, wherein said sports server comprises means for selecting a selected field of said plural fields in which to store the sports data in response to the replies to said prompt.

18. (Amended) The system of claim [11] 12, further comprising means for user selection of a selected sport to which the sport data applies, wherein said means for transmitting prompts to the input device comprises means for transmitting prompts in response to the selected sport.

20. (Amended) The system of claim [11] 12, wherein the input devices to which said sports server is operatively connectable comprise personal digital assistants, mobile phones, pagers, two-way radios, smart-phones, and sport specific input devices.